

# **Minority Business Enterprise Compliance Office**

## **Certification Review Committee (CRC)**

### **Minutes of the Meeting**

**March 17, 2010**

**A meeting of the Certification Review Committee (CRC) was held at the Rhode Island Department of Administration, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908, on Wednesday, March 17, 2010. The meeting was called to order at 2:23 p.m. with a quorum being declared present. Members in attendance: Charles Newton, Louise Anderson, and Denise Correy. A fourth CRC member, Muraina Akinfolarin, arrived at 3:15 p.m. and participated solely in the second hearing (Structural Stone, LLC) and discussions of old/new business. Members absent: Olayinka Oredugba. Also in attendance was Dorinda Keene, staff to the CRC.**

**The Minutes of the February 17, 2010 meeting were reviewed. After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve the Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.**

**The Certification Review Committee reviewed recommendations of the MBE Compliance Office regarding the applications submitted on behalf of the following firms:**

- a) BD Financial Services, P.C.      MBE TN**
- b) City Point Partners, LLC      WBE/DBE MA**

**c) NTC Cleaning Services, Inc. WBE/DBE RI**

**d) Prime Engineering, Inc., d/b/a PEI Engineers, Inc. MBE/DBE MD**

**e) Three Sixty Security, LLC MBE/DBE RI**

**After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve the certification of these firms in the State of Rhode Island's MBE program and/or the DBE program, as applicable, as administered by those transportation agencies governed by 49 CFR. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Hearings:**

**Arora Engineers, Inc. – A hearing was conducted before the CRC regarding this firm's continued eligibility for certification as an MBE/DBE in the State of Rhode Island, and was attended by Mr. Manik Arora, President of Arora Engineers, Inc. After questioning by the members of the CRC regarding issues of size standards, a motion was made and properly seconded to deny recertification. Motion carried unanimously (Newton, Anderson, Correy).**

**Structural Stone, LLC – A hearing was conducted before the CRC regarding this firm's continued eligibility for certification as a WBE/DBE in the State of Rhode Island based upon a third party challenge of eligibility. Ms. Angela Conte attended the hearing on behalf of Structural Stone, LLC. After questioning by the members of the CRC regarding issues of dependency, control, and capital**

investment, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve the firm's continued certification as a WBE/DBE in the State of Rhode Island. Motion carried 3/0/1, with three members voting for approval (Anderson, Correy, and Akinfolarin), and with one member abstaining from the vote (Newton).

#### **Old/New Business:**

**EDI Landscape, LLC** – This applicant firm had been notified of a scheduled hearing regarding their application for certification as a WBE/DBE in the State of Rhode Island, based upon issues of control, dependency, affiliation, and the appearance that the firm had been structured solely to take advantage of the MBE/WBE/DBE programs. The MBE Compliance Office was notified by the applicant, Ms. Kimberly Colapietro, that she declined to attend the scheduled hearing in order to give testimony before the CRC regarding her firm's eligibility. After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to deny certification of this firm. Motion carried unanimously (Newton, Anderson, Correy, Akinfolarin).

**Fairmont Sons, LLC , d/b/a Alphagraphics** – This applicant firm had been notified of a scheduled hearing regarding their application for certification as a WBE/DBE in the State of Rhode Island, based upon issues of ownership, control, dependency, compensation, capital contributions, and the appearance that the firm was structured solely to take advantage of the MBE/WBE/DBE programs. While the records indicate that the applicant did, indeed, receive the hearing notification

**sent via certified mail, the applicant failed to respond to said hearing notification within the specific time period, and, accordingly, was denied certification. The applicant, Ms. Lisa Ryan, has submitted a written request that the CRC reconsider its original denial of certification and grant a new hearing. After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to deny the applicant's request for reconsideration. Motion carried unanimously (Newton, Anderson, Correy, Akinfolarin).**

**There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the CRC shall be on Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.**